

38 suggested descriptive terms & phrases  
for **the Prodigal Son**  
**Parable in 15:11–32**  
*It was / is ...*

Various terms, such as *involving anger* and *loveless*, describe one character in the story but not others. The elder brother was angry and lacking in love, but the father who represents God was not.

\* \*

(about/involving being)

**accepted**

(received, welcomed)

\* \* \*

**comparative**

(comparing things/people etc.)

\* \* \*

**agricultural**

(farming, hard working)

\* \* \*

(about/against being)

**covetous**

(greedy, idolatrous)

\* \*

(about, involving)

**anger**

(hostility, angry)

\* \* \*

**cross-cultural**

(involving more than one culture)

\* \*

(about, involving)

**the Christian life**

(being in Christ, serving the Lord)

\* \*

**evangelistic**

(about sin/salvation, a testimony)

\* \*

(about, involving)

**failure**

(defeat, ending poorly, negligence)

\*

(about, involving)

**God's image**

(ways in which man is like God)

\* \*

(about, against)

**false belief(s)**

(false religion/philosophy/theology)

\*

(about, involving)

**God's joy**

(that which pleases God)

\* \*

(about, involving)

**family**

(father, mother, children, etc.)

\*

(about, involving)

**God's love**

(God's compassion/mercy/grace)

\* \* \*

(about, involving)

**forgiveness**

(being forgiven, forgiving, pardon)

\* \*

(about, involving)

**God's patience**

(God waiting / being slow to judge)

\* \*

(about/involving being)

**free to serve**

(not being enslaved/overpowered by sin)

\* \*

**joyful**

(cheerful, happy)

\* \*

(about/against being)

**lawless**

(immoral, sinful, without law)

\*

**positive**

(not critical/negative)

\* \*

(about/against being)

**loveless**

(coldhearted, lacking love)

\* \*

(about, involving)

**pride**

(arrogance, being proud)

\* \*

(about/involving being)

**miserable**

(hungry, in pain, uncomfortable)

\* \* \*

(about, involving)

**putting God first**

(God-centered, trusting God, unselfish)

\* \* \*

**missing some things**

(purposefully incomplete)

\* \* \*

(about/against being)

**rebellious**

(rebelling, not submissive)

\* \*

**negative**

(critical, dismissive)

\* \* \*

(about, involving)

**repentance**

(pondering, thinking)

\* \*

(about, involving)

**right thinking**

(correct/healthy thought pattern)

\* \* \*

**theological**

(about God and biblical truth)

\*

**sad**

(dark, depressed, unhappy)

\* \*

**two-sided**

(having two sides like a coin, dualistic)

\* \* \*

(about/against being)

**self-righteous**

(like the Pharisees, selfconfident)

\* \* \*

(about/against being)

**unthankful**

(ungrateful, faithless, independent)

\* \*

(about, involving)

**salvation**

(deliverance, forgiveness)

\*

(about/against being)

**wasteful**

(poor stewardship, wastefulness)

\* \*

(about/against)

**sinfulness**

(kinds of sin, transgression, lust)

\* \*

(about, against)

**wrong thinking**

(harmful/incorrect thought pattern)

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